

Annex B: Section 151/73 /127 Assurance Statement

The Section 151/73 / 127 Officer should here provide a report to the Annual Performance Review on their work for the LEP over the last twelve months, and their opinion, with a specific requirement to identify any issues of concern, on governance and transparency. The report should focus on any issues raised in Annex A: Annual Performance Review Preparation. This report should be sent to the Assurance Team via localgrowthassurance@communities.gov.uk, copying the Cities and Local Growth Unit Area Lead by **20 January 2021**.
(max 500 words)

The Leicester City Council Director of Finance / s151 officer and staff continue to ensure the LLEP is properly reflected in the Accountable Body's (AB) wider governance framework.

The company remains legally dormant and hence the LLEP continues to use AB systems, including accounting, payroll and the corporate IT network.

AB decisions are subject to the Council's formal governance and decision making processes, e.g. acceptance and allocation of the LGF and GBF, management of the GPF as determined by the LLEP Board. The Council's rules specifically provide for AB decisions. The LAF has been consistently implemented at all decision making levels.

The elected City Mayor distinguishes between his roles as 'the Council', AB to the LLEP, and as a LLEP board director. The distinction is drawn in the Council's Constitution and capital programme governance.

The s151 officer routinely engages with the LLEP both directly on specific issues, and more generally through the Deputy Director of Finance who is formally the responsible officer for the LLEP. Both the s151 officer and her deputy have an open invitation to be present at Board meetings, with at least one attending each meeting.

A significant area of continued personal direct engagement by the s151 has been the discussions and negotiations about Enterprise Zones, which have also involved other specialist finance and legal officers.

The Deputy Director works closely with the LLEP secretariat on the range of business, and reviews reports to the Board and Investment Panel. There is regular and consistent communication, e.g. 'accountable body' meetings, pre-meets to discuss Board papers and actions, together with reviews of matters such as LGF and GBF profiles, LLEP operating finances and GPF loan applications and repayments. Any significant concerns are discussed with the s151 officer.



Ministry of Housing,
Communities &
Local Government



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy

The Principal Accountant attends the recently formed Investment Panel.
The Finance and Audit Committee will be similarly supported.

An internal audit review of LLEP Governance was commissioned as part of
the Council's 2020/21 internal audit plan. Work commenced in December
2020.

Signed:

Name: Alison Greenhill

Position: Director of Finance and s151 officer, Leicester City Council

Date: 19/01/2021